

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN THOMPSON, BOB GAGNON, "CHIPPER" ROWE, SANDY ROBINSON, MURRAY SMITH, AND ALBERT DAUPHINAIS, SIX NEW HAMPSHIRE HEROES

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to six heroic residents of North Sutton, NH, who saved the life of my good friend and neighbor, Rosa Weinstein. Brian Thompson, Bob Gagnon, "Chipper" Rowe, Sandy Robinson, Murray Smith and Albert Dauphinais all acted without hesitation to rescue Rosa from her burning car in order to get her to the hospital. I am very proud of these six individuals from North Sutton who did not waste 1 second in coming to Rosa's rescue. I would like to extend a personal word of thanks to each one of them for saving my friend's life.

On September 1, Rosa Weinstein was driving through North Sutton, NH, when her car went out of control, flipped over on its side and caught on fire. By what many have described as a miracle, the accident occurred within a few yards of the North Sutton Volunteer Fire Station and in front of the home of Brian Thompson. Immediately after Brian saw the car from his kitchen window, he used a fire extinguisher to contain the flames coming from the car. As Brian was doing this, two firemen, Bob Gagnon and "Chipper" Rowe, ran to the nearby firehouse for the equipment to put out the flames. Three additional heroes, Murray Smith, Albert Dauphinais, and Sandy Robinson, a emergency management technician, helped put out the flames, rescued Rosa from inside the car and kept her alive long enough to be taken to the hospital.

Rosa suffered considerably from the accident, but she is very grateful for the actions of the North Sutton residents who so quickly came to her aid. There is no doubt whatsoever in anyone's mind that Rosa owes her life to these six heroes.

It is my hope that Rosa will regain her strength soon and will make a speedy recovery over the next few weeks. Both Rosa and her husband, Harris, are wonderful, thoughtful friends. Indeed, I was very sad to hear about the accident, but am also very proud of the way the six North Sutton residents reacted.

Harris expressed the deep gratitude of Rosa's family by saying, "The uncommon heroism demonstrated by Brian Thompson, Bob Gagnon, "Chipper" Rowe, Sandy Robinson, Murray Smith, and Albert Dauphinais is an extraordinary example of America at its best. We will forever be thankful for their selfless, quick-thinking action."

Mr. President, the actions of these six individuals on that day in early September are truly remarkable. Their efforts are appreciated not only by Rosa's family but by myself and many other New Hampshire residents. And, for Rosa, I wish the very best for her as she recovers from her injuries. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. •

TRIBUTE TO DANA PODELL OF COLORADO, GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD WINNER

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize 18-year-old Dana Podell of Greeley, CO. The Mountain Prairie Girl Scout Council honored Molly with the Girl Scout Gold Award on May 4, 1996. The Gold Award is considered to be the highest honor achieved in U.S. Girl Scouting and is awarded to young women between the ages of 14 and 17 who display outstanding achievement in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. Additionally, a Girl Scout must earn the Career Exploration Pin, four interest patches, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and complete a Gold Award project of her own creation.

As a senior at Greeley Central High School, and a member of Girl Scout Troop 2000, Dana displays genuine leadership and truly exhibits concern for the world around her. In March 1996, Dana began work on the Gold Award project by organizing bilingual story times, recruiting Spanish-speaking volunteers from the community. She also found an established organization—the Chavez Center—willing to continue the program.

Dana has made outstanding contributions to her community and is an excellent role model for all youth. I am proud to salute Dana as a recipient of the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award. •

MENTAL HEALTH CARE: AN AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday, the "Mental Health Parity Act of 1996" was signed into law by President Clinton. Mr. President, the act provides parity of coverage for treatment of mental illness. The debate over the bill was both stimulating and educational, in that it encouraged many of us to learn more about issues affecting the management of mental health disorders. I believe that, as a group, we now have a greater awareness and sensitivity to this area. I would like to take this opportunity to present some of the issues which I feel must be addressed.

Mental health may be affected by numerous factors ranging from outside stressors, presenting in ways that may be difficult to manage, to physical disease or genetic defects that impair brain function. The erosion of our traditional social support systems, including fragmentation of extended and nuclear family structures, have contributed to the morbidity of mental disorders. Increased complexity and stress in society are also responsible for the higher incidence of symptoms.

Consequently, alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health disorders affect 18-30 percent of adults annually. Suicide claims 30,000 lives each year. We are

also faced with skyrocketing costs and utilization of mental health and substance abuse services which now represent 4 percent of the GDP. However, these costs represent only one-fourth of the total price. Employees with behavioral health problems experience higher accident rates, use more health benefits, and have lower overall work performance ratings than other workers. The costs of crimes which are committed as a result of behavioral disorders must also be included.

As a physician and surgeon, I understand the impact of mental illness on the lives of my patients and their families. I also understand the importance of good psychiatric care. Advances in medication and psychological therapeutic techniques have improved our ability to treat these disorders effectively. In addition, the destigmatization of mental illness and chemical dependency have led to a greater willingness on the part of the general public to seek help for these problems.

However, traditional techniques have not been effective in controlling either the costs or quality of care provided in this arena. Reorganization of public sector, local authority, and managed care contracting has begun and a niche industry of specialized managed mental health/substance abuse organizations or carve-outs has developed.

Unfortunately, we cannot necessarily rely on competition and the market to solve these problems. These forces may fail because of externalities and information problems. Even our health care providers have not always received the education about mental illness necessary to perform their tasks. At this point, no one is sure that the new programs are any more effective than the old ones.

As a transplant surgeon, I understand the value of teamwork. I believe that we must use that approach if we are to solve these problems. Government, payers, providers, and consumers must each contribute solutions. Together, we can accomplish the following objectives:

First, parity of coverage between mental and physical disorders must be encouraged.

Second, payers must develop incentives for providers to provide appropriate care as well as information for patients.

Third, we must educate providers about the most cost-effective ways to deliver high quality care. Medical school curricula should be revised to provide more in-depth training on mental health and substance abuse disorders. Reimbursement mechanisms for graduate medical education must be changed so that residents are less tied to acute-in-patient facilities. When they are placed in facilities across the continuum of care they will receive more exposure to issues of chronic behavioral disease management.

Fourth, we must learn how to measure the real value of care we provide in